**Minimum Common Needs Programme**

5990. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed/reviewed the performance of Minimum Common Needs Programme initiated during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of target set, State-wise;

(c) the details of outstanding performance of the States under the programme as also reasons for failure of some States to utilise the funds provided under the programme during 1996-97; and

(d) whether careful review of the Programme has revealed certain shortcomings/deficiencies in some States and action proposed to be taken during 1997-98 to ensure better performance and utilisation of funds with State - wise target set for the key elements of the Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, The Basic Minimum Services (BMS) Programme was introduced in August 1996-97. No State-wise targets were set.

The Additional Central Assistance (ACA) allocated for the BMS was released in four equal instaments during the latter half of the year 1996-97 starting from November '96 with the last instalment being released only in March, 1997. Only eight State Governments have reported full utilisation of the funds sanctioned as ACA for BMS while others have cited time constraint.

The review of the implementation of the Programme has revealed that some States have under provided for the BMS at the revised estimates stage even though they had intimated that adequate provisions were being made in conformity with the guidelines issued to them. The programme envisages fixation of physical targets and a joint monitoring mechanism. Details are being worked out, for 1997-98, the first full year of programme implementation.

**Ganga Action Plan**

6991. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the success acheived and present status in the abatement of river pollution under Ganga Action Plan in U.P. together with the expenditure incurred under Ganga Action Plan so far;

(b) the success achieved and present status in the abatement of Yamuna and tributary rivers pollution in U.P. together with expenditure incurred so far; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to ensure that Ganga and its tributaries will be free from pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Out of 106 schemes of pollution abatement sanctioned at a cost of Rs.199.95 crore in 6 towns of U.P. under Ganga Action Plan Phase I, 104 schemes have been completed. An amount of Rs.184.88 crore has been released so far to the Government of U.P. towards implementation of these schemes. As a result of the completed schemes, the water quality of the river has improved.

(b) Pollution abatement works have been taken up on two tributaries of the Ganga in U.P., viz. Yamuna and Gomti under the Ganga Action Plan Phase II. Works are being implemented in 8 towns along river Yamuna and 3 towns along river Gomti. Both these River Action Plans are being implemented on equal cost sharing between the Central and U.P. Governments. Projects amounting to Rs.99.48 crore for Yamuna and Rs.12.89 crore for Gomti have been sanctioned so far. An amount of Rs. 31.26 crore for Yamuna and Rs. 5.40 crore for Gomti has been released so far to the Government of U.P. towards the Central Government's share for these schemes.

(c) Pollution abatement works on river Ganga, including the Second Phase Works, and its tributaries Yamuna and Gomti are targeted for completion by March, 1999.

**Meeting of Wild Life Board**

5992. DR. C. SILVERA :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the Indian Wildlife Board has been organised at New Delhi in recent past after a gap of 13 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the nature of issues discussed alongwith reasons for not holding it during the last 13 years;

(c) whether the meeting will benefit Mizoram and other States of North-Eastern Region in any way;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;

(e) whether the issue of international criticism of India's failure to protect the tigers also figured in the meeting; and